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Cc: Vaught, Laura[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov]; Levine, Carolyn[Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov]
From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Wed 3/26/2014 3:51:07 PM
Subject: WV delegation requests disaster assistance re: MCHM

United States Congress

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 26, 2014

Contact:

Jonathan Kott (Manchin), 202-228-1810
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CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REQUESTS PRESIDENT TO GRANT MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION IN WAKE OF CHEMICAL SPILL

Delegation sends letter to President and FEMA in support of Governor Tomblin's request

Washington, D.C. – Yesterday, U.S. Senators Joe Manchin and Jay Rockefeller, along with Representatives Nick Rahall, Shelley Moore Capito and David McKinley wrote a letter to President Obama and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate to express their full support of Governor Tomblin's request to declare a major disaster for the state of West Virginia as a result of the January 9 chemical spill in the Elk River.

The congressional delegation wrote, in part: "We respectfully ask that Governor Tomblin's request for a major disaster declaration be granted so that we can continue to recover from this event of national and international significance. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this important matter."

Please read the congressional delegation's full letter below, or click [here](#).

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Copy To: Administrator W. Craig Fugate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. President:

We write in full support of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's request that you declare a major disaster for the State of West Virginia as a result of the devastating contamination of our State's water supply by a

chemical spill that began on January 9, 2014.

As Governor Tomblin stated in his letter to you last week, the costs incurred by our wonderful citizens, our compassionate volunteer organizations, and our hardworking state and local agencies have been extraordinary. We appreciate your immediate action on January 10 in declaring an emergency disaster following this event and activating FEMA to help our State in direct response to this tragedy.

The chemical spill also greatly impacted our economy, our school systems, our hospitals, and many of our businesses across the affected region. While estimates of the impact to our economy have been calculated at \$61 million, we expect the likely total economic impact to be far greater. School systems lost a significant amount of instructional days. Hospitals were forced to reschedule visits by their patients. Our businesses saw substantial revenue loss, while incurring vast costs to clean their facilities and recover from this crisis.

We respectfully ask that Governor Tomblin's request for a major disaster declaration be granted so that we can continue to recover from this event of national and international significance. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

John D. Rockefeller IV, Joe Manchin III, Nick J. Rahall II, Shelley Moore Capito, David B. McKinley

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Mark Ferrell

EPA Region 3

Office of State and Congressional Relations

West Virginia Liaison

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